

Mission Statement

"The mission of the Bluffton Police Department is to provide the highest quality of police services to our community and its visitors by promoting a safe environment through a police-citizen partnership, with an emphasis on mutual trust, honor, professionalism and dedication to duty"

Values Statement

"We provide service with understanding, response with compassion, performance with integrity and law enforcement with vision"

Vision Statement

"Committed to Community"

The Bluffton Police Department offers competitive salaries, excellent benefit package, career advancement, training, and a positive working environment.

Our department is growing, 10 years ago there were only 4 officers including the chief of police; today we have over 45 officers and are expected to grow significantly in the near future.



Joey Reynolds
Chief of Police



Equal Opportunity Employment

The Town of Bluffton is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of Race, Sex, Age, National Origin, Religion, Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity or Physical/Mental Disability (except where physical requirements constitute a bona fide occupational qualification). All terms and conditions of employment such as compensation, benefits, work assignment, availability of facilities, and privileges of employment are administered on the same basis of equality.

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About Bluffton

The Town of Bluffton is located in Beaufort County, the southernmost coastal county in South Carolina. It is situated on a high bluff overlooking the May River, a pristine waterway that has strongly contributed to the Town's history and continued success. Bluffton is located just 12 miles west of Hilton Head Island, SC and approximately 20 miles northeast of Savannah, GA. It is also easily accessible from Intrastate Highways 46, 170, & 278 and Interstate 95. Bluffton recently expanded its territory by 32,000 acres through annexation of primarily four tracts of undeveloped land, becoming the fifth largest town in South Carolina (by land area). These recent annexations have created a challenge for government officials and citizens to preserve the Town's rich historical heritage and character.

History

In 1825 the Town was officially incorporated by an act of the South Carolina General Assembly and comprised approximately one square mile. A steamboat landing was constructed at the end of Calhoun Street at this time, which allowed the Town to be a stopover for travelers between Savannah and Beaufort or Charleston. Within one year of the capture of Fort Sumter, Bluffton became a safe haven for residents fleeing Union occupation of the South Carolina barrier islands. Bluffton was a headquarters for Confederate forces until Union forces on Hilton Head Island ordered the Town's destruction in 1863. Approximately 60 structures were in the Town before the attack, only the Town's two churches and fifteen residences remained standing after the attack.

Rebuilding came slowly as few local landowners could still afford the luxury of a summer home in Bluffton. The Town did not experience a true rebuilding until the 1880s, when the Town emerged as a commercial center for Beaufort County. The Town remained a commercial center until the Coastal Highway (US 17) and the bridge at Port Wentworth over the Savannah River were completed, making riverboat trade and travel less attractive. The Great Depression, beginning shortly thereafter, brought the closure of the Town's prosperity and commercial importance. The popularity of the Town as a vacation spot remained even after its loss of commercial stature. The development of Hilton Head Island, nearby Sun City, and related development have caused a resurgence of commercial activity in the Town.

Hiring Process

We have an open application/ongoing hiring process. Most successful applicants will complete the selection process within eight weeks from the time they apply.

This process has been set up to select the highest quality candidates available.

The steps in the selection process take approximately 5 to 8 weeks to complete and are as follows:

- Application Accepted
- Application Review (Criminal History & Drivers License History)
- Invitation for Testing (Written Test)
- Panel Interview
- Polygraph Examination
- Psychological Examination
- Background Check
- Physical Examination
- Drug Screen
- Conditional Offer of Employment

Once hired:

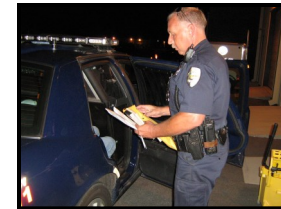
- You must complete basic training for 12 weeks at the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy in Columbia, SC.
- You must complete 12 weeks of Field Training
- You are considered a Probationary Police Officer for six (6) months after your hire date for previously certified officers and (6) months after academy graduation for non-certified officers.



South Carolina Minimum Requirements to Apply:

- Must be a US citizen and 21 years of age (documentation/birth certificate).
- Must have a high school diploma or the equivalent (documentation required)
- Hold a valid South Carolina driver's license when hired. No DUI convictions, suspension for DUI or leaving the scene of an accident within the past ten (10) years.
- After a conditional offer of employment, you must submit to and pass a physical, psychological, and polygraph examination.
- Agree to a credit check with favorable results.

***Applicants must provide fingerprints for FBI check to verify that you have no felony convictions, serious misdemeanors, criminal domestic violence, or crimes of moral turpitude.**



Salary And Benefits

- Competitive Salary
- South Carolina Police Officer's Retirement System (Currently 25 Year Retirement)
- 457K & 401K Retirement Plans
- Deferred Compensation Plan
- Basic Life Insurance
- Membership at a local gym.
- Take Home Car Program (with restrictions)
- All Uniforms and Equipment Furnished
- Paid Basic Academy Training
- Medical and Dental Coverage Plans
- 80 Hours of Paid Time Off (PTO) at Hire, 17 days of PTO Accrued In a Year
- 11 Paid Holidays to include a personal day.
- Military Leave
- 100% Tuition Reimbursement up to \$3,000 per year based upon successful course completion.